

CPYRIGHT

X

'What Did Korea Cost the Brass Hats?

To the Editor of The Star:

ONE of the favorite tricks of the Communists, it seems to me, and also of unthinking people in general, is to attack, mock and try to make ridiculous the so-called "brass" of our Nation. Some politicians also have found this group to be extremely vulnerable, good publicity, and, in many cases, ironically, perhaps the most defenseless of all of their targets.

To hear certain commentators, to read certain slanted writers, one would imagine the "brass" to be some ruthless, selfish monster devouring youth to satisfy its own ambitions. One seldom thinks of the "brass" in human terms. The "brass" is pictured as aloof from the sufferings that the defense of our great Nation requires in these most tense times.

As the rumble of artillery is silenced, and as rifle platoons no longer fix bayonets in preparation for the fire-fight, our thoughts will turn from Korea and the heroic sacrifices that our fighting men have made there for all of us. And, as always, the "brass" will continue to weather the attack upon it by many who have never carried arms in the defense of America nor shed blood for it.

"What did it cost the brass hats," some will ask, "to fight in Korea? It just meant promotions for them, more stars and eagles, DSMs and Legions of Merit." How wrong they will be. Let us examine the record.

Gen. Van Fleet's son, a bomber pilot, has long been listed as "missing in action" after a raid over North Korea. Gen. Mark Clark's son, an infantry officer, was wounded near Heartbreak Ridge. Gen. Patton's son, a tank captain, served in some of the roughest combat fought on that bloody peninsula. Gen. Eisenhower's son has served at the front.

Selective Service Director General Lewis B. Hershey's son, a Marine, landed at Inchon, fought through the rugged advance northward toward the



WILLIAM D. CLARK Wounded by Mortar. **JAMES VAN FLEET, Jr.** Missing on Mission. **GILBERT R. HERSHEY** Hit on Second Tour.

Chosin Reservoir; finished his tour of duty, and volunteered to go again. He was severely wounded. Former Truce Negotiator Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy's son served as an Army lieutenant in Korea.

The list goes on and on in a glorious page of our history. Lesser "brass" has felt the cost tremendously, too. Navy Capt. John Carson's son, a Marine lieutenant, both of Washington, won the Navy Cross posthumously on the Pusan Perimeter for refusing evacuation, although critically wounded, to direct tank fire on Communist infantry, until he was mortally wounded. Comdr. Vincent Rich, U. S. N., of Alexandria was the father of Marine 1st Lt. Richard Rich who gave his life while serving as a company commander of Marines last year. Lt. Rich was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his courageous spirit in pushing an attack against the Communists.

The list is too long to submit here. It contains names like Lt. Thurston Baxter, who attended school in Washington before he went to West Point

and whose father is a general. He was last seen in combat with a MIG over the Yalu. CIA Chief Allen Dulles' son, and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' nephew, went from Princeton to a bitter mortar barrage in Korea, where as a forward observer for the Marines he pin-pointed enemy targets until he was badly wounded. He has been put in for a Navy Cross to wear beside his Purple Heart.

With a record like this, I do not know how any thinking American could ever say or insidiously imply that our "brass" are immune from the terrible tragedies of war to preserve our freedom.

Behind their seeming austere countenances, their campaign ribbons, their decorations and their stars are the same human feelings peculiar to all of us. They, too, are fathers, and the "killed in action" telegrams in their staccato bluntness, I am sure, read no more easily to them.

To me, their Korean record is another example of what good Americans they really are.

Samuel Robert Shumaker III.

CPYRIGHT

CPYRIGHT